

**First  
Christian  
Church  
(Disciples of Christ)**

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# The Echo

Volume 14, Issue 12

December 2014

## ADVENT AT FIRST



**Sunday, November 30: Advent 1** – the candle of Hope  
rehearsal with choir and narrators after church for cantata

**Wednesday, December 3:** Bell and choir rehearsals

**Thursday, December 4:** Elders dinner meeting

**Saturday, December 6:** Hometown Holidays

Enjoy bell choir, tuba/euphonium group, and symphony music

**Sunday, December 7: Advent 2** – the candle of peace  
Choir leads in worship

**Monday, December 8:** Toys and food items due at church

**Wednesday, December 10:** 5:30 pm MSU women's ball team  
wraps clothing for outreach baskets; desserts still needed.  
Poinsettia slips and money due in office

**Sunday, December 14: Advent 3** – the candle of joy  
Youth led service. Delivery of baskets after church

**Sunday, December 21: Advent 4** – the candle of love

**Monday, December 22:** (time TBA) youth caroling to our  
home bound

**Wednesday, December 24:** Christmas Eve service at 10 pm,  
with music in the sanctuary beginning at 9:30

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NOTES FROM THE PASTOR:



*The whole world waits in December darkness  
for a glimpse of the Light of God.  
Even those who snarl “Humbug!”  
and chase away the carolers  
have been seen looking at toward the skies.  
The one who declared he never would forgive  
has forgiven,  
and those who left home  
have returned,  
and even wars are halted,  
if briefly,  
As if the whole world looks starward.*

ANN WEEMS

From Leon and your pastor, with love,  
Merry Christmas.  
Keep looking starward.....

Pastor Mally 

## YOUTH DIRECTORS

The youth had a great time shopping for the Thanksgiving baskets. It is very meaningful to them to be a part of our holiday outreach programs. They are very engaged and understand that there are many people in our community who appreciate our help during difficult times. Thank you to Thelma Brown for providing lunch to the youth this month.

The Youth Christmas Program will take place on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> during the service. Please make plans to attend this service and support our youth. A reminder to the youth parents, please let us know no later than this Sunday if your youth has an instrument they would like to play or if they will **NOT** be participating in the Christmas service.

The youth will be caroling to some of our homebound on Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please meet at FCC at 3:00 p.m. We will send more details about this to parents through email as the date approaches.

Our love and blessings to all this Christmas season.

Mary Claire Williams and Chris Prichard  
FCC Youth Co-Directors



## CHOIR DIRECTOR

It is a time for Thanksgiving and I wanted to start this month's article with a huge "THANK YOU" and kudos to our amazing choir! The choir has been working very hard on the Christmas Cantata and we are so excited to bring you *The Christmas Story* coming up on December 7<sup>th</sup> during our Sunday service. This wonderfully arranged work brings in traditional carols along with newly arranged pieces and gives us the opportunity to feature all four of our choir interns as soloists. I also want to thank Ginny Etherton, Yvonne Baldwin, Steven Graves, and Brent Rogers for agreeing to be our narrators. I am blessed beyond measure to have such a wonderful group of people to work with!

The rest of December will feature some wonderful music as well. We will start the service on December 21<sup>st</sup> with a beautifully written modern setting of the Magnificat text as the introit. The December 21<sup>st</sup> service will also feature a lovely anthem entitled *Will We Know Him?* And then, for those of you who will be in town, you won't want to miss our lovely Christmas Eve service. One thing we're adding this year is a thirty minute pre-service time for music and singing. Please join us for carol singing, along with some instrumental and vocal soloists, starting at 9:30 PM. And the special music on December 28<sup>th</sup> will feature ChiaLing and myself at the piano together.

I hope you all have an amazing time of Thanksgiving. I look forward to sharing the music of the holidays with you.

Genny Jenkins



We are now receiving money from Kroger on a quarterly basis. Look for the amount next month in this space. And thank you for your continued use of your Kroger card for First Christian Church.

For those who enjoy reading the sermon Bible passages for the month, they are as follows:

December 7: Choir Cantata

December 14: Youth Lead

December 21: Luke 1: 47-55

December 28: Luke 2: 22-40



## December Birthdays

1-Alta Blair  
1-Stephen Brashear  
1-Eric Carter  
2-Jean Hoff  
2-Karen Ross  
6- Larry Fannin  
7- Jami Hornbuckle  
10- Michael Young  
17- Molly Smothers  
19- Jack Bizzel  
21- Sasha Reinhardt  
22- Jeremy Skaggs  
27- Ryan Brown  
28 - Kathryn Rogers  
28- Kristi Skaggs



## Treasurer's Report

Income for the first four Sunday's in November

**\$8,343.50**

*The average income needed to pay the church expenses is \$10,208.12*

## December Deacons

Carmen Swim, Phillip Swim, Anita McNeal, Holly Pollock, Matt Nutter and Mike Seelig. Thanks to all the deacons for their ministry.

## We Hope It Won't Be Necessary

But if inclement weather becomes a problem, announcements will be seen on WKYT Snow-GO crawl and our Facebook page and webpage.

## Mack Fund

A donation was made in memory of  
Deb Eastwood's brother Tim  
by Betty Hall

## DO YOU HAVE?

The church has need of a garment rack for the third floor storage area. Do you have one you could donate to us? Please and thank you.

## Time to Order Poinsettias!



This year, we are again ordering poinsettias from the MSU Horticulture department! If you would like to make a donation or purchase a marble colored poinsettia with gold paper in memory or in honor of an individual, please detach this form, fill out the appropriate information, and turn it in to the church office by noon on **Wednesday, December 10.** *The church is ordering the poinsettia as, so you don't have to order them yourselves this year.* Cost: \$10.

\_\_\_A donation or \_\_\_A poinsettia  
\_\_\_In honor of or \_\_\_In memory of



Given by \_\_\_\_\_

### Bells Will Ring

- ♦ The bells will play at Grange City Christian Church on November 30th in the evening.
- ♦ The bells will be playing at the US Bank during Hometown Holidays on December 6th.

### DIRECT DEBIT STARTING JANUARY

It's true: The one thing that is constant in life is change. Less than 100 years ago, many churches would not accept checks, but only cash. In the last 50 years or so, checks have almost completely been the mode for offerings. But in this 21st century, many of us have moved toward internet banking. With that in mind, and also keeping in mind our younger congregation, we are pleased to announce that beginning January 1, 2015, First Christian Church can debit your account for general operations contributions each week or on a monthly basis. **OBVIOUSLY, this is purely voluntary. You may continue to give as you have always given. Any Direct Deposit offerings will still be reflected in your year-end tax statement.**

To sign up, fully complete the Authorization Agreement found at each entrance. For your security, all Authorization Agreement forms are retained in a secure location at the church. Turn in the completed form along with a voided check to the church office.

### COMING UP IN 2015

**January 4th**—First Sunday lunch after church: please bring a brunch item.

**January 25th** -The Adult Sunday School class will complete its current study on the 18th of January. The next week they will begin a look at Karen Armstrong's A History of God. Copies are available at CoffeeTree Books. Why not get a copy now and read ahead?

### GIFT SUGGESTION

If you are looking for something that has no caloric value, does not need to be fed or dusted, and is always in fashion: why not consider giving a camp scholarship in memory or in honour of someone? Our human concerns ministry collects money year-round to help Rowan County youth attend such events as Space Camp, Camp Smile, 4-H Camp, or even to Washington DC. Cards and envelopes are available at each sanctuary door. Give a gift that can change a life.



### Dear FCCMOREHEAD

This email is to notify you that First Christian Church will be receiving a \$5.03 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2014. The donation will be deposited to your organization's bank account on or before Nov 15, 2014. It may take several days for the donation to appear.

As you know, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible AmazonSmile items and there's no cap on how much we will donate. shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). When you send an email or post to social media promoting your participation in AmazonSmile, make sure you use your charity-specific link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/61-0865444>.

### A THANK YOU FROM THE OGMP

FCC received a congratulatory note from the office of Dr. Sharon Watkins, our denominational General Minister and President, thanking us for our increase in giving to the DMF special offerings: we moved from \$1,667.00 in 2013 to \$3,750.00 in 2014—that is more than double the giving in one year! We are glad to be helping such ministries as Reconciliation, Week of Compassion, Higher Education, youth and camps, and funding our Regional Office. Every dollar makes a difference.



# 'Tis the Season...



## ...to be grateful.

December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:00—LMF meeting	2	3 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	4 Elders' Dinner	5	6 Hometown Holidays
7 <b>ADVENT II</b> 9:45 NO Sunday school 10:45 CHOIR CANTATA	8  FOOD AND WRAPPED TOYS DUE	9	10 5:30 MSU wom- en's ball team wrapping/dinner	11	12 	
14 <b>ADVENT III</b> 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Youth Led Service CHRISTMAS DELIVERY	15	16	17 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	18	19	20
21 <b>ADVENT IV</b> 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service	22 3pm Youth Caroling	23	24 9:30—Music 10pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27
28 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service	29 NO Board Meetings	30	31			



First Christian Church  
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**Rev. Molly Smothers, Minister**

Genny Jenkins, Choir

Mary Claire Williams and Chris  
Prichard, Youth

Barbara Marsh, Secretary

Chialing Hsieh, Organist

Sarah Chaney, Bell Choir

Ashley Morris, Nursery

Bethenny Glahn, Nursery

Darrin Roe, Custodian

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[www.fccmorehead.org](http://www.fccmorehead.org)



Merry Christmas and a  
blessed New Year from  
your church  
staff:



Genny, Mary Claire, Chris,  
Barbara, Chialing, Sarah,  
Ashley, Bethenny, Darrin,  
and Pastor Molly.